

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is responsive to the official action dated April 7, 2006. Claims 1-28 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-28 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 2, 8, 11, 17, 23, and 27 have been canceled, and claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13-16, 18-20, 22, 24-26, and 28 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12-16, 18-22, 24-26, and 28 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12-16, 18-22, 24-26, and 28 are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

**§101 Rejections**

Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 13 and 14 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 13 and 14 render claims 13 and 14 compliant with §101. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under §101 be withdrawn.

**§112 Rejections**

Claims 6, 9, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 6, 9, and 19 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 6, 9, and 19 render claims 6, 9, and 19 compliant with §112. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under §112 be withdrawn.

**§102 and §103 Rejections**

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10-18, and 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) [sic] as being anticipated by Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0217123).

Claims 4-6, 9, 19-21, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Joao (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0121969).

Claims 2, 8, 11, 17, 23, and 27 have been canceled, thereby rendering their rejections moot.

Applicants submit that the independent claims (claims 1, 7, 10, 13-16, 20, 22, 25, and 26) are patentable over Anderson and Joao.

Applicants' invention as recited in the independent claims directed toward information transmission and/or reception. Each of the claims recites that "predetermined information" is stored in a transmitter/receiver, and that a "piece" of the predetermined information is transmitted/received via the transmission/reception of a number of calling signals. Each of the claims further recites that "the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household appliance [in communication with a reception system], and wherein, for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance."

Neither Anderson nor Joao discloses the use of calling signals to transmit/receive a piece of predetermined information wherein the predetermined information is household appliance operation data which is indicative of appliance type and operation. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1, 7, 10, 13-16, 20, 22, 25, and 26 are patentable over Anderson and Joao - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicants believe that dependent claims 3-6, 9, 12, 18, 19, 21, 24, and 28 are patentable over Anderson and Joao for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with the independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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